

Message Text

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17 11

ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 MC-02 EB-11 OMB-01

TRSE-00 /175 R

DRAFTED BY ARA-LA/CEN:MWCOTTER/LAPEZZULLO:AF

APPROVED BY ARA:WGBOWDLER

NEA/IAI:WTCLUVERIUS

ARA/PLC-PM:JWILLIAMS

ARA-LA/CEN:DLAZAR

----- 055536

R 212129Z WOV 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 229797

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MASS, ES, IS

SUBJ: EL SALVADOR PURCHASE OF ISRAELI JETS

REF: A) STATE 188645

B) USDAO SAN SALVADOR DTG 011520Z OCT. 1973

C) HSS 2844

1. REF A REPORTED THE UNAUTHORIZED LEAK OF INFORMATION THAT THE GOI WAS SELLING SOME 25 MILITARY AIRCRAFT TO THE GOES. REF B CONTAINED MORE INFORMATION ON THE SALE. REF C IDENTIFIED THE AIRCRAFT AS 18 OURAGAN FIGHTERS, THREE FOUGA MAGISTER TRAINERS, AND FOUR ARAVA. THESE
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MESSAGES ALL PRIOR TO FIGHTING IN MIDDLE EAST.

2. SALES PLANS WERE NEVER CONFIRMED BY GOI. IN VIEW OF LACK OF CONFIRMATION OF SALE AND SUBSEQUENT CONFLICT WITH ARAB STATES, EMBASSY ASKED TO ASCERTAIN CURRENT GOI INTENTIONS REGARDING SALE OF AIRCRAFT TO GOES. IF SALE IS FIRM, WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE INFORMATION ON TIMING OF DELIVERY AND NUMBER AND TYPE OF AIRCRAFT INVOLVED.

3. FYI: EL SALVADOR AND HONDURAS ENGAGED IN A SHORT BUT BITTER ARMED CONFLICT IN 1969. THOUGH TENSION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES HAS DECREASED MARKEDLY SINCE 1969, THEY HAVE NOT SETTLED THEIR DIFFERENCES. DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS CONTINUE SUSPENDED. THIS UNRESOLVED DISPUTE HAS HAD A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON CENTRAL AMERICAN COMMON MARKET AND IS OF CONTINUING CONCERN TO OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE REGION WHO HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTING TO BRING THE TWO PARTIES TOGETHER. THE OAS ALSO HAS PLAYED AN ACTIVE PEACEMAKING ROLE. IN AUGUST THE TWO PARTIES AGREED TO A SCHEDULE OF FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS IN MEXICO WITH THE ANNOUNCED AIM OF REACHING A FULL SETTLEMENT OF THE DISPUTE BY DECEMBER 15. LEAK OF INFORMATION ON GOI SALE OF JETS TO GOES CAME AT MOST INOPPORTUNE TIME, SHORTLY AFTER TALKS STARTED IN MEXICO.

4. HONDURAS ESPECIALLY CONCERNED ABOUT TIMING OF JET DELIVERIES AND NUMBER OF JETS BEING SOLD TO EL SALVADOR. GOH HAS ORDERED SIX A-37 AIRCRAFT FROM THE US WHICH WILL BE DELIVERED IN EARLY 1975. WE MADE SIMILAR OFFER TO EL SALVADOR. GOH SEES ITSELF FACED WITH A RECENTLY BELLIGERENT NEIGHBOR WHICH MAY POSSESS JET AIRCRAFT IN VERY SHORT TERM FUTURE.

5. SINCE 1969 CONFLICT USG HAS REFRAINED FROM SUPPLYING MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO EITHER SIDE WHICH WOULD BE VIEWED BY OTHER SIDE AS THREAT TO ITS SECURITY. WHILE BAN ON HEAVY EQUIPMENT SALES BY USG NOW RELAXED TO SOME EXTENT WE ARE FOLLOWING POLICY OF STRICT EVEN-HANDEDNESS AS BETWEEN THESE TWO COUNTRIES SO AS TO NOT APPEAR TO BE TAKING SIDES. END FYI.

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL
@@@OASYS@@@<CONCATENATED>

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: <CONCATENATED>
Draft Date: 21 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: collinp0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02-Jan-2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <07 MAR 2002 by collinp0>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980313
Subject: EL SALVADOR PURCHASE OF ISRAELI JETS
TAGS: MASS, ES, IS
To: TEL AVIV
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005